

James R. Skillen, Ph.D.

Calvin University
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PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

Ph.D., Natural Resource Policy, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Committee: Richard A. Baer, Jr.; Theodore J. Lowi; Richard S. Booth (2006)

M.A., Theology, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, MA

(Magna Cum Laude, 2000)

B.S., Environmental Science, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

(Magna Cum Laude, 1996)

APPOINTMENTS

Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI

Director, Calvin Ecosystem Preserve and Native Gardens (2020-Present)

Associate Professor of Environmental Studies (2017-Present)

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies (2008-2017)

The Oregon Extension, Ashland, OR

Professor of Environmental Studies (2013-2015)

The Au Sable Institute, Mancelona, MI

Visiting Professor of Environmental Studies (Summers 2010-2012)

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN

Lilly Postdoctoral Fellow & Lecturer in Humanities and Social Sciences. (2006-2008)

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Teaching Assistant in NTRES 407: Religion, Ethics, and the Environment and in NTRES 202: People, Values, and Natural Resources. (2001-2006)

San Juan/Rio Grand National Forests, Saguache, CO

Forestry technician. (Seasonal employee, 1996-1997)

BOOKS

Skillen, James R. & Bruce R. Huber. *An Introduction to U.S. Federal Public Lands*. New York: Routledge, Forthcoming.

_____. *This Land is My Land: Rebellion in the West*. New York: Oxford University Press, September 1, 2020.

_____. *Ecosystem Management: Its Rise, Fall, and Afterlife*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2015.

_____. *The Nation's Largest Landlord: The Bureau of Land Management in the American West*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2009.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Skillen, James R. Review of *Cattle Country: Livestock in the Cultural Imagination*, by Kathryn Cornell Dolan. *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, Forthcoming.

_____. Review of *Our Common Ground: A History of America's Public Lands*, by John D. Leshy. *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Forthcoming.

_____. "Who Will Celebrate Us? The Bureau of Land Management at 75." *Forest History Today* Spring/Fall 2021.

_____. "Republicans face a test in the primary. How many voters will Ammon Bundy win over?" *Idaho Statesman*, October 12, 2021.

_____. "Wildfire, Climate Change, and a Climate Conservation Corps: A Rare Opportunity." *The Hill*, September 19, 2021.

_____. Review of *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah, 1933-1942: Remembering Nine Years of Achievement*, by Kenneth W. Baldrige. *H-Environment*, September, 2021.

_____. "The Conservative Obsession Over Public Lands." *The Majority Report*, hosted by Sam Seder. May 13, 2020.

_____. "Justice—beginning with Cliven Bundy." *The Nevada Independent*, January 24, 2021.

Skillen, James R. & Leisl Carr Childers, "Why the United States Needs to Change How It Manages Public Lands." *Thompson Reuters Foundation News*, October 27, 2020.

Skillen, James R. "The 2020 elections will determine which voices dominate public land Debates." *The Conversation*, October 6, 2020.

Skillen, James W., and James R. Skillen. "Evangelical Double-Mindedness in Support of Donald Trump." In *The Dangerous Spiritual Case of Donald Trump: 30 Christians Assess a President and Those Who Support Him*, edited by Ronald J. Sider and Bandy Lee. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2020.

Skillen, James R. "Public Lands Rebellion." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 88, Number 2 (2020).

_____. "NEPA at 50: Environmental Protection and the Process Predicament." *Forest History Today* 25, no. 1 & 2 (2020).

Freemuth, John and James R. Skillen. "Moving Bureau of Land Management Headquarters to Colorado Won't Be Good for Public Lands." *The Conversation*, January 8, 2020.

Skillen, James R. "NEPA at 50: The National Environmental Policy Act, Environmental Protection, and the Process Predicament." *Forest History Today* Spring/Fall 2019.

- _____. Skillen, James R. "Stewardship and the Kingdom of God." In *Beyond Stewardship: New Approaches to Creation Care*, edited by David Paul Warners and Matthew Kuyperus Heun. Grand Rapids, MI: Calvin College Press, 2019.
- _____. "Interview with Dr. James Skillen: Author, Scholar & Public Lands Supporter," *The Public Lands Monitor*, XXXI, no. 2 (Summer 2018): 8-10.
- _____. Review of *Yellowstone and the Smithsonian: Centers of Wildlife Conservation*, by Diane Smith. *The American Historical Review*, 122, no. 5 (December 2017): 1615-1616.
- _____. Review of *From Nature to Creation: A Christian Vision for Understanding and Loving Our World*, by Norman Wirzba. *Christian Scholars Review*, XLVI, no. 4 (Summer 2017): 426-428.
- _____. "Give Us a King." *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, April 29, 2017.
- Skillen, James R. and James W. Skillen. "The Trump Presidency: Everything Up for Grabs." KLICE Comment, February 2017.
- Skillen, James R. Review of *Between God & Green: How Evangelicals Are Finding a Middle Ground on Climate Change*, by Katharine K. Wilkinson. *Journal of Religion* 97, no. 1 (January 2017): 148-150.
- _____. Review of *Concrete Revolution: Large Dams, Cold War Geopolitics, and the US Bureau of Reclamation*, by Chris Sneddon. *Environmental History* 21, no. 4 (October 2016): 764-766.
- _____. Review of *Money Trees: The Douglas Fir and American Forestry, 1900-1944*, by Emily K. Brock. *Agriculture History* 90, no. 3 (Summer 2016): 418-419.
- _____. Review of *Battleground Alaska: Fighting Federal Power in America's Last Wilderness*, by Stephen W. Haycox. H-Net Reviews, August, 2016.
- _____. Review of *The Size of the Risk: Histories of Multiple Use in the Great Basin*, by Leisl Carr Childers. *The American Historical Review* 121, no. 3 (June 2016): 968.
- _____. Review of *Introducing Evangelical Ecotheology: Foundations in Scripture, Theology, History, and Practice*, by Daniel Brunner, Jennifer Butler, and A.J. Swoboda. *Christian Scholar's Review* 45, no. 2 (Winter 2015): 185-187.
- _____. Review of *Public Nature: Scenery, History, and Park Design*, edited by Ethan Carr, Shaun Eyring, and Richard Guy Wilson. *Environmental History* 20, no. 4 (October 2015): 847-848.
- _____. Review of *Making Rocky Mountain National Park: The Environmental History of an American Treasure*, by Jerry J. Frank. *The American Historical Review* 119, no. 5 (December, 2014): 1717.
- _____. Review of *Managing the Mountains: Land Use Planning, the New Deal, and the Creation of a Federal Landscape in Appalachia*, by Sara M. Gregg. *Journal of American History* 98, no.2 (September, 2011): 564-565.

- . Review of *Climate Justice: Ethics, Energy, and Public Policy*, by James B. Martin-Schramm, *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* 63, no.3 (Sept. 2011): 204.
- . Review of *Uncertain Path: A Search for the Future of National Parks* by William C. Tweed: H-Environment, H-Net Reviews, 2011.
- . Review of *The Seven Pillars of Creation: The Bible, Science, and the Ecology of Wonder*, by William P. Brown. *Christian Scholar's Review* 40, no.3 (2011): 326-327.
- . "Reimagining a Sense of Place." *The Cresset* 74, no.3 (2011): 6-12.
- . "Congress and the Next Public Land Commission." *Forest History Today* 15, no. 1 & 2 (2009): 37-39.
- . "Closing the Public Lands Frontier: The Bureau of Land Management, 1961-1969." *Journal of Policy History* 20, no. 3 (2008): 419-45.

SELECTED RECENT INTERVIEWS AND PRESENTATIONS

- "This Land Is Our Land," Introduction to Federal Public Lands, HASP, Hope College, November 8 & 9, 2022.
- "The BLM at 75," Public Lands Foundation Annual Meeting, Virtual, September 14, 2021.
- Interview, hosted by Steve Grumbine, *Macro N Cheese*, October 23, 2021.
- Interview, hosted by Sam Seder, "The Conservative Obsession Over Public Lands," The Majority Report, May 13, 2020.
- Interview, hosted by Stephen Hausman, New Books Network, February 23, 2021.
- Interview, hosted by Brenden W. Rensink, Writing Westward Podcast, January 2021.
- "God, Guns, and the 2020 Election," Sponsored by the Department of Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies, Calvin University, October 23, 2021.
- Panelist, "Green New Deal: What is it and is it good policy?" Sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Department of Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies, Calvin College, April 18, 2019.
- 4th Biennial Student Congress on the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails System Act, organized by the Public Lands Foundation. Baker City, OR, August 22-25, 2018
- Respondent at the Ninth Biennial Symposium on Religion and Public Life, organized by the Paul B. Henry Institute, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, April 27, 2017.
- "Federal Ecosystem Management in the Trump Administration: Can It Survive?" Invited presentation for the Sustainable Michigan Endowed Program, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, April 7, 2017.

“FLMPA.” Invited presentation to the Bureau of Land Management director and executive leadership team. October 18, 2016. Washington, DC.

3rd Biennial Student Congress on the 40th Anniversary of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, organized by the Public Lands Foundation. September 8-11, 2016. Las Cruces, NM.

Grants and Awards

Calvin Research Fellowship, Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI. (2021-2022; 2022-2023)

Calvin Research Fellowship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. (2018-2019)

Sabbatical Grant, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. (2017-2018)

Research Grant, Greensprings Learning Community, Ashland, OR. (2013)

Calvin Research Fellowship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. (2009-2012)

Faculty Lectureship Award, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. (2011)

Summer Calvin Research Fellowship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. (2009)

H.B. Earhart Dissertation Fellowship, Earhart Foundation, Ann Arbor, MI. (2005-2006)

Fellow in the study of religion and the environment, Au Sable Institute of Environmental Science, Madison, WI. (2003-2006)

Civitas Fellow, The Center for Public Justice. Summer Institute in Religion & Public Policy, Washington, DC. (July 2004)

Erasmus Institute Fellow, University of Notre Dame. Graduate Summer Institute “The Cultural Context of Environmental Issues,” Portland, OR. (June 2004)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental law and policy, particularly the history of federal land and natural resource policy and management in the 20th century.

Environmental history, particularly where it intersects with Western History.